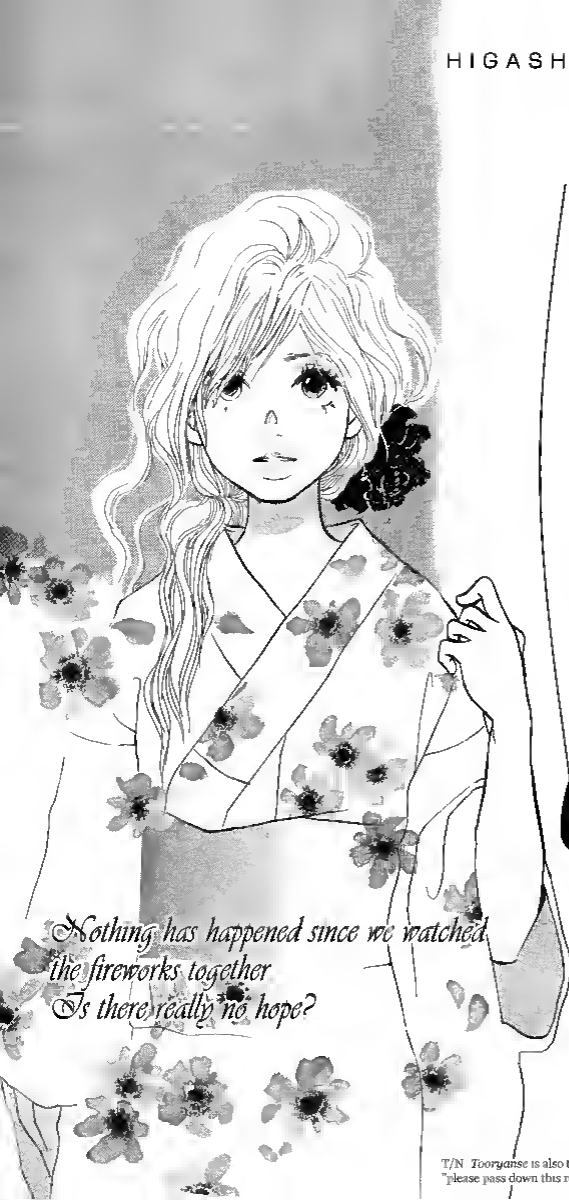
HIGASHIMURA AKIKO

# Tooryanse



*Nothing has happened since we watched the fireworks together*
*Is there really no hope?*

T/N *Tooryanse* is also the title of a Japanese folk song, which means "please pass down this road"

ACTUALLY,
I DON'T REALLY
BELIEVE...

IN THINGS LIKE
PAST LIVES OR
REINCARNATION.

BOOM
BOOM
TCH.
I CAN'T BREATHE.
PUSH
PUSH
BOOM
URGH!

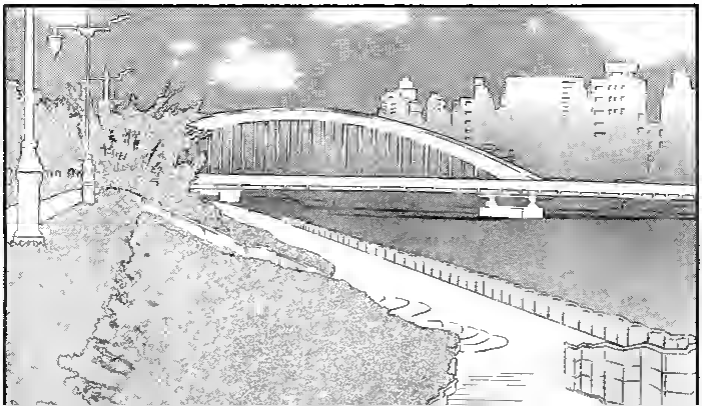
*Tenchou = shop manager

LAST SUMMER, I WENT TO WATCH THE FIREWORKS WITH TENCHOU

STILL, I GOT SO WORKED UP ABOUT IT, I BOUGHT A NEW YUKATA.
HE PROBABLY ONLY INVITED ME TO GO WITH HIM.
BECAUSE THE SHOP IS RIGHT ON THE BANK OF THE SUMIDAGAWA RIVER
AND WE GOT SEPARATED. NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SINCE.
THE NIGHT OF THE FIREWORKS. I WAS ENGULFED BY THE HUGE CROWD ON EIDAIBASHI BRIDGE.

BITE

THE WEATHER IS GOOD TODAY.
CAN YOU TAKE KOUMEI FOR HIS WALK?
SUWA-SAN
YES?
FOR SOME RED BEAN BUNS?
YEP
TWO OF THEM.
SURE
OH AND STOP AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
CAN I JUST TAKE HIM TO THE USUAL PLACE?
AH, OK.



PUSH PUSH
BITE
I WORK PART-TIME ON THE WEEKENDS AT A PET SHOP
GRAWL
GRAWL
KOUMEI, DON'T GO IN TOO DEEP
7
SIX MONTHS AGO,
SHOP
GALAPAGOS
I SAW THE AD IN THE SHOP WINDOW AND DECIDED TO WALK THROUGH THE DOOR.
SO, SUWA-SAN 29 YEARS OLD
WHAT KIND OF PETS HAVE YOU HAD?
PET SHOP
Galapagos

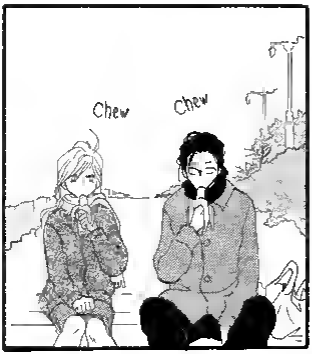
LIM, THE REGULAR KIND... A TREE FROG? I THINK IT WAS A TREE FROG.
A FROG? WHAT KIND OF FROG?
LIM, AND A FROG...
A DUCK, A SQUIRREL, A CAT...
GOLD-FISH, KILLI-FISH...
WE'RE VERY CLOSE TO THE RIVER HERE THERE WILL BE LOTS OF THEM COME SPRING.
LUCKY YOU
WELL, I'M NOT THAT FOND OF THEM NOW
I DON'T PARTICULARLY HATE REPTILES, BUT I DON'T—
THIS PERSON HE'S A BIT...

WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER,
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE PEOPLE WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY RE THINKING
BUT UNLESS ONE OF US MAKES A MOVE, NOTHING WILL EVER HAPPEN.

BACK THEN..

THE FIREWORKS WERE PRETTY WEREN'T THEY?
I CALLED HIM ON HIS CELL PHONE
AFTER I GOT FREE OF THE CROWD...
Everyone, please keep moving slowly
Move along
HE'S REALLY THE WORST.
Stagger
...
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME.
OK. THEN.
Click
HM?
Rustle
A WEIRDO. NO COMMON SENSE.
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
Shack

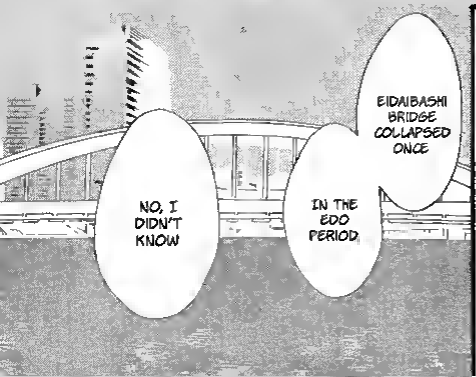
KOUMEI!
HEY!
Gathered
...
KOUMEI!
WHERE ARE YOU?
COME OUT HERE
Rustle
Rustle
I'M SURE HE'LL COME OUT TO EAT THEM SOON.
I BROUGHT A WHOLE BUNCH
WE'LL LEAVE SOME BANANAS IN A FEW SPOTS
SWOP
I'M TRULY SORRY.
DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE HE'S SOMEWHERE IN THE BUSHES. IGUANAS AREN'T THAT FAST.


Chew
Chew

SUWA-SAN, WOULD YOU LIKE ONE?
HUH?

Splash
Splash
Splash
Splash
Splash




EIDAIBASHI BRIDGE COLLAPSED ONCE
IN THE EDO PERIOD
NO, I DIDN'T KNOW

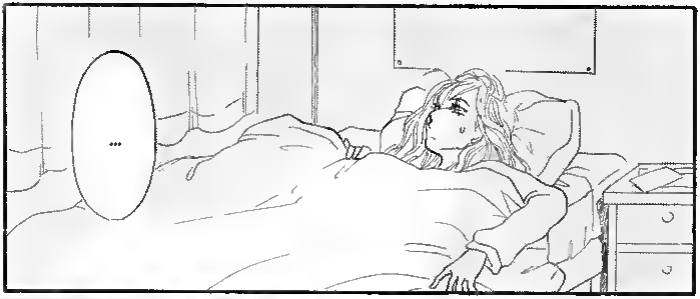
DO YOU KNOW?
PARDON?

THERE WAS A HUGE FESTIVAL THAT DAY. THE BRIDGE SWARMED WITH SPECTATORS...
AND IT COLLAPSED IN THE MIDDLE FROM ALL THAT WEIGHT.
OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE DIED.
EH? A THOU-SAND?
UNLIKE THE BRIDGE TODAY, IT WAS MADE OF WOOD
IT WASN'T TOO SURPRISING THAT IT WOULD BREAK UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
...
THE CROWD DURING THE LAST FIREWORKS DISPLAY...
WAS MASSIVE.
YEAH.
SO I CAN PRETTY MUCH IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE.

HUH?
BACK THEN... WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WHEN WE GOT SEPARATED ON THE BRIDGE,
YOU TURNED AROUND AND SAID SOMETHING TO ME
CRAWL
CRAWL
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER IT, THOUGH.
AH, THERE HE IS.

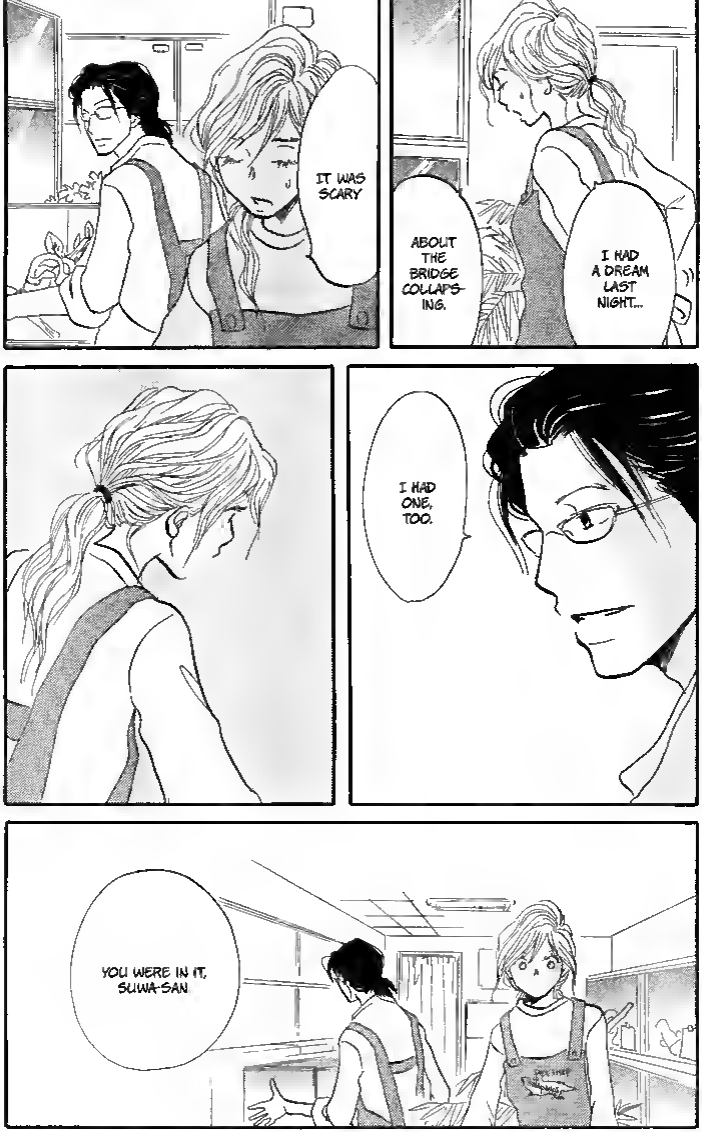
BOOM
BOOM

FALL
Hah!


...

TENCHOU

GALAPAGOS


I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT...
ABOUT THE BRIDGE COLLAPSING.
IT WAS SCARY
I HAD ONE, TOO.
YOU WERE IN IT, SUWA-SAN.

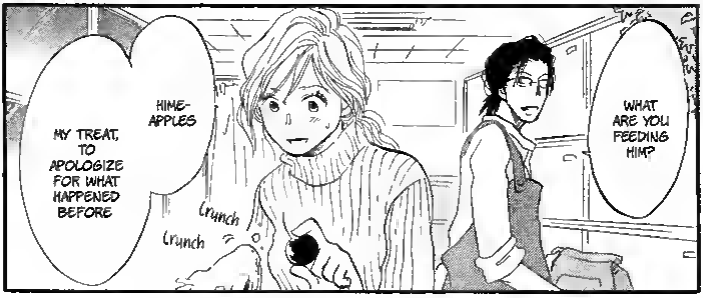
DID I SHOW UP IN YOURS?
WHAT ABOUT YOURS?
HUH?
I SEE.
JUST A BIT.
JUST A... LITTLE BIT
JUST...

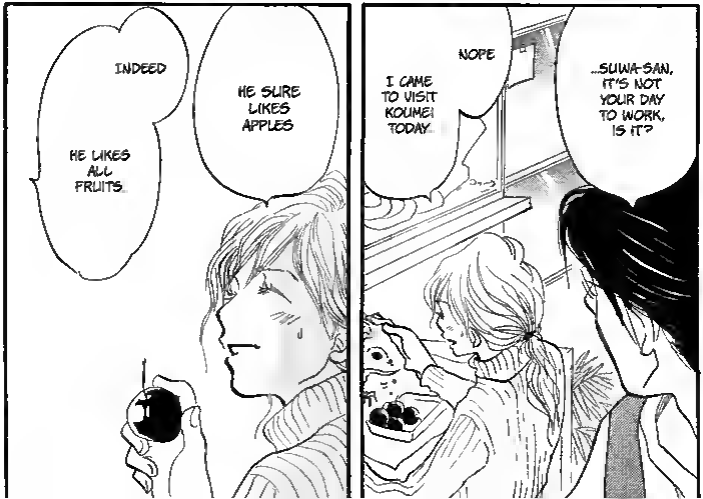
FALL

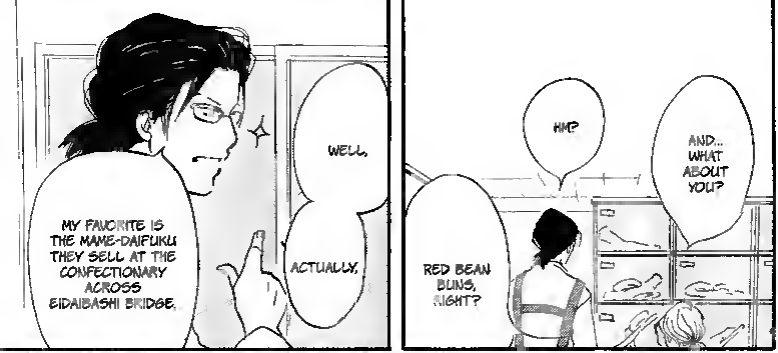
IT STARTED WITH SOMETHING SMALL...
AND BECAME REAL.
GASP
HEY..

...PLEASE FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.

BITE


WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING HIM?
HIME-APPLES
MY TREAT, TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE
Crunch
Crunch


...SUWA-SAN, IT'S NOT YOUR DAY TO WORK, IS IT?
NOPE
I CAME TO VISIT KOUMEI TODAY
HE SURE LIKES APPLES
INDEED
HE LIKES ALL FRUITS


MY FAVORITE IS THE MAME-DAIFUKU THEY SELL AT THE CONFECTIONARY ACROSS EIDAIBASHI BRIDGE.
WELL, ACTUALLY,
RED BEAN BUNS, RIGHT?
HM?
AND... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

* daifukumochi with beans: see here --> https://kyotofoodie.com/wagashi-kuromame-daifuku/

IT'S OK.
I'LL COME WITH YOU.
THERE WON'T BE ANY CUSTOMERS THIS TIME OF DAY.
WHICH SIDE IS IT ON AFTER CROSSING THE BRIDGE?
AH, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE SHOP IS.

TENCHOU
YES?

I ASKED YOU THE OTHER DAY...
WHAT YOU SAID...
THE NIGHT OF THE FIRE-WORKS...
RIGHT BEFORE WE GOT SEPA-RATED
THAT IS, IF YOU STILL REMEMBER
I DO.
EH?
"I'VE SEEN THIS IN MY DREAM." THAT'S WHAT I SAID
EH?
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN IT IN A DREAM

YOU WEARING A YUKATA...
GETTING JOSTLED AND SHOVED BY THE CROWD ON A BRIDGE

I WOKE UP WHEN THE BRIDGE WAS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE.
I WAS WEARING A KIMONO.
BUT IN MY DREAMS, IT WAS THE EDO PERIOD.
HANG ON
IT WAS INTERESTING TO IMAGINE IT
I THOUGHT, "THERE MUST HAVE BEEN JUST SUCH A CROWD 200 YEARS AGO"
ON THE NIGHT OF THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY...
YOU SHOWED UP QUITE A LOT
YEP
YOU.
YOU'RE SAYING I HAD APPEARED IN YOUR DREAMS EVEN BEFORE THE NIGHT OF THE FIREWORKS, RIGHT?
REPEAT-EDLY?

I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE...
THE MAME-DAIFUKU.
COME, LET'S HURRY.
IN THINGS LIKE PAST LIVES OR REIN-CARNATION, BUT
"ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE EDO PERIOD, WE STEPPED ONTO EIDAIBASHI BRIDGE..."
TENCHOU.
PERHAPS SOME DAY SOMEONE WILL USE THAT AS A PICK UP LINE...
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
"AND BECAME THE PROTAGONISTS IN A SAD LOVE STORY, MORE TRAGIC THAN ANY KOREAN DRAMA."

LET'S GO SEE THE FIREWORKS AGAIN THIS YEAR.
YES?
LET'S DO THAT
YEAH.

RIGHT ON THIS BRIDGE.
Check out other series by Higashimura-sensei!
The End ★

# Tooryanse

by Higashimura Akiko

Translation: Akane
Scans: net source
Edits: Ink
Proofreading: Conner

et-caetera.net
#etc@irc.irchighway.net